

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1-40 (Cancelled)

41. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of Claim 39~~ A method of making a battery comprising:

forming a strip of interconnected grids from a grid material, each interconnected grid including a plurality of wires, each wire having opposed ends, each opposed end being joined to one of a plurality of nodes to define a plurality of open spaces;  
modifying at least one of the wires at a position intermediate the opposed ends of the wire such that a first transverse cross-section taken intermediate the opposed ends of the wire differs from a second transverse cross-section of the wire taken at one of the opposed ends of the wire;

applying paste to the strip; and

cutting the strip to form a plurality of plates;

wherein modifying at least one of the wires comprises[[:]] rotating at least a portion of the wire at the position intermediate the opposed ends of the wire.

42. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim [[39]] 46 wherein modifying at least one of the wires comprises:

stamping the wire at the position intermediate the opposed ends of the wire.

43. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 42 wherein the first transverse cross-section substantially has a shape selected from the group comprising diamond, oval, rhomboid, hexagon, and octagon.

44. (Previously Presented) A method of making a battery comprising:

forming a strip of interconnected grids from a grid material, each interconnected grid including a network bordered by at least one frame element, one of the frame elements having a current collector, the network comprising a plurality of spaced apart

grid elements, each grid element having opposed ends, each opposed end being joined to one of a plurality of nodes to define a plurality of open spaces in the network;

forming at least a portion of the grid elements at a position intermediate the opposed ends of the grid element such that a first transverse cross-section taken intermediate the opposed ends of the grid element differs from a second transverse cross-section taken at one of the opposed ends of the grid element;

applying paste to the strip; and

cutting the strip to form a plurality of plates;

wherein forming at least a portion of the grid elements comprises stamping the grid element at the position intermediate the opposed ends of the grid element;

wherein the first transverse cross-section substantially has a shape selected from the group comprising diamond, oval, rhomboid, hexagon, and octagon; and

wherein the network and each of the frames define opposed substantially planar surfaces, and each first transverse cross-section does not extend beyond the planar surfaces.

45. (Previously Presented) A method of making a battery comprising:

forming a strip of interconnected grids from a grid material, each interconnected grid including a network bordered by at least one frame element, one of the frame elements having a current collector, the network comprising a plurality of spaced apart grid elements, each grid element having opposed ends, each opposed end being joined to one of a plurality of nodes to define a plurality of open spaces in the network;

forming at least a portion of the grid elements at a position intermediate the opposed ends of the grid element such that a first transverse cross-section taken intermediate the opposed ends of the grid element differs from a second transverse cross-section taken at one of the opposed ends of the grid element;

applying paste to the strip; and

cutting the strip to form a plurality of plates;

wherein the network and each of the frames define opposed substantially planar surfaces, and each second transverse cross-section does not extend beyond the planar surfaces.

46. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of Claim 39~~ A method of making a battery comprising:

forming a strip of interconnected grids from a grid material, each interconnected grid including a plurality of wires, each wire having opposed ends, each opposed end being joined to one of a plurality of nodes to define a plurality of open spaces;  
modifying at least one of the wires at a position intermediate the opposed ends of the wire such that a first transverse cross-section taken intermediate the opposed ends of the wire differs from a second transverse cross-section of the wire taken at one of the opposed ends of the wire;

applying paste to the strip; and

cutting the strip to form a plurality of plates;

wherein forming the strip of interconnected grids from a grid material comprises:

feeding a continuous strip of the grid material along a linear path aligned with the longitudinal direction of the strip; and  
punching grid material out of the strip to form the strip of interconnected grids.

47. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 46 wherein the continuous strip of the grid material is formed by a continuous casting process.

48. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 46 wherein the continuous strip of the grid material is formed by a rolling process.

49. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of Claim 39~~ A method of making a battery comprising:

forming a strip of interconnected grids from a grid material, each interconnected grid including a plurality of wires, each wire having opposed ends, each opposed end being joined to one of a plurality of nodes to define a plurality of open spaces;  
modifying at least one of the wires at a position intermediate the opposed ends of the wire such that a first transverse cross-section taken intermediate the opposed ends of

the wire differs from a second transverse cross-section of the wire taken at one of the opposed ends of the wire;

applying paste to the strip; and

cutting the strip to form a plurality of plates;

wherein forming the strip of interconnected grids from a grid material comprises:

feeding a continuous strip of the grid material along a linear path aligned with the longitudinal direction of the strip;  
piercing apertures in the strip of grid material; and  
laterally expanding the strip of grid material to form the strip of interconnected grids.

50. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim ~~[[39]]~~ 46 wherein forming the strip of interconnected grids from a grid material comprises:

melting the grid material;  
continuously casting the grid material to form a continuous web; and  
rolling the web to form the strip of interconnected grids.

51. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim ~~[[39]]~~ 46 wherein forming the strip of interconnected grids from a grid material comprises:

melting the grid material; and  
continuously casting the grid material to form the strip of interconnected grids.

52. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim ~~[[39]]~~ 46 further comprising modifying at least a portion of at least one of the nodes before applying paste to the strip.

53. (Cancelled)

54. (Cancelled)

55. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim ~~[[39]]~~ 46 wherein modifying at least one of the wires comprises deforming the at least one wire.

56. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim ~~[[39]]~~ 46 further comprising installing at least one plate in a container.

57. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim ~~[[39]]~~ 46 further comprising providing acid in the battery.

58. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim ~~[[39]]~~ 46 wherein the plurality of plates each comprise a lug.

59-139. (Cancelled)